

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 NSC-10 DRC-01

/077 W

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R 130836Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0042

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A SEOUL 6197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT:TRIAL OF REVEREND PARK HYUNG KYU

1. THE THIRD COURT SESSION IN THE TRIAL OF TWO PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS, PARK HYUNG KYU AND KWON HO KYUNG, TOOK PLACE SEPTEMBER 12. ALSO IN THE DOCK WERE NAM SAM-U AND YI CHONG NAM, BOTH IDENTIFIED AS FORMER STAFF MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION NDP. SEVERAL AMERICAN CLERGYMEN AND SOME RELATIVES OF THE DEFENDENTS WERE PRESENT IN COURT ROOM.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE AMERICANS PRESENT, PROSECUTOR TRIED TO MAKE CASE THAT REV. PARK HAD ATTEMPTED TO PROMOTE A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION SEEKING TO INDUCE THE CROWD AT THE NAMSAN EASTER SERVICE TO PICK UP STONES AND STICKS AND ATTACK POLICE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS NEARBY. HE DREW PARALLEL WITH 1960 STUDENT REVOLUTION. REV. PARK REBUTTED THESE ARGUMENTS, BUT ADMITTED PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCING AND AIDING DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT. THIS ADMISSION, ALTHOUGH
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PROBABLY TRUE, WAS ALLEGEDLY PART OF DEAL TO GET OTHER DEFENDENTS RELEASED.

3 FINAL COURT HEARING IS TO TAKE PLACE
SEPTEMBER 18 AND A VERDICT IS EXPECTED SHORTLY
THEREAFTER.

4. PRIOR TO TRIAL, 250 CHURCH LEADERS REPORTEDLY
HELD PRAYER MEETING FOR THE TWO MINISTERS AT
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN CHUNGdong AREA.
ACCORDING EMBASSY SOURCES, ROK CIA OFFICIALS
PRESENT WARNED THE MINISTERS THAT SUCH
DEMONSTRATIONS COULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON
TRIAL, BUT WERE LARGELY IGNORED. NO EFFORTS
WERE MADE TO STOP THE SERVICE.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL06197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HABIB
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730937/aaaabauc.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RIAL OF REVEREND PARK HYUNG KYU
TAGS: PFOR, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005